8th July 1952]

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" The minimum wage fixed previously was Rs. 28 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance and it was asked to be increased as it did not suffice to purchase the rationed articles. If the minimum wage is now Rs. 25 per mensem inclusive of dearness allowance, do the Government consider that, by decreasing the pay by Rs. 3 the employees will be able to purchase the rationed articles? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is open to the municipalities to write to Government and fix the minimum wages and the Inspector of Local Boards will examine whether the municipalities can afford to pay the proposed wages to their menials."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN :—" If in general practice the municipalities are paying more than the minimum wage, will the Government consider the desirability of fixing the minimum wage a little higher up? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The minimum wage was fixed only recently and the Government Order was published on the 29th March 1952."

Reconstitution of the village panchayats.

* 54 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri V. Gopala Gounder is not in his seat, the answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend to reconstitute the village panchayats under the provisions of the Village Panchayats Act, 1950, this year, and if so, when the elections will be held; and

(*b*) if it is by General Election, is it on the basis of adult franchise?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) The Government propose to reconstitute the existing panchayats under the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950, after holding elections to them, which are expected to commence from September 1952.

" (*b*) Yes, the Assembly electoral rolls pertaining to the panchayat area will be the electoral rolls for panchayat elections also, with reference to section 12 of the Madras Village Panchayats Act, 1950."

Report of the Special Officer for the development of Ramanathapuram district.

* 55 *Q.*—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Special Officer for development work in Ramanathapuram district has submitted his report to the Government ; and